

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 1, 9 and 16, AMEND claims 2-8, 10-15, and 17-22 in accordance with the following:

1. (cancelled)
2. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~4~~7, further comprising:  
a charge determination unit determining whether or not a the user is to bear a charge for recycle.
3. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:  
a payment method determination unit determining a method of paying ~~a the~~ charge when said charge determination unit determines that athe user is to pay athe charge.
4. (original) The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:  
a calculation unit calculating the charge according to information obtained by said information obtaining unit.
5. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein  
when said charge determination unit determines that athe user is to pay ~~a the~~ charge, the apparatus first confirms a payment of the charge by the user, and then performs a receiving process.
6. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~4~~7, wherein

said information obtaining unit obtains information from ~~a~~the user over a network.

7. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: A support apparatus for supporting recycled use of equipment of a user, comprising:~~

an information obtaining unit obtaining equipment information about the equipment to be received from the user;

a determination unit determining according to information obtained by said information obtaining unit whether or not treatable articles restriction standards of a receiver of the equipment are exceeded;

a location management unit managing a location and a type of the received equipment;  
and

a plant determination unit determining a plant which processes the equipment based on the location and the type of the equipment.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~1~~7, further comprising:

a progress information generation unit generating information about progress of recycling equipment.

9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) ~~The program~~storage according to claim ~~9~~15, further comprising:

a charge determination unit determining whether or not ~~a~~the user is to bear a charge for recycle.

11. (currently amended) ~~The program~~according storage to claim 10, further comprising:

a payment method determination unit determining a method of paying ~~a~~the charge when

said charge determination unit determines that ~~a~~the user is to pay ~~a~~the charge.

12. (currently amended) The ~~program-storage~~ according to claim 10, further comprising:

a calculation unit calculating the charge according to information obtained by said information obtaining unit.

13. (currently amended) The ~~program-storage~~ according to claim 11, wherein when said charge determination unit determines that ~~a~~the user is to pay ~~a~~the charge, the computer first confirms a payment of the charge by the user, and then performs a receiving process.

14. (currently amended) The ~~program-storage~~ according to claim ~~9~~15, wherein said information obtaining unit obtains information from ~~a~~the user over a network.

15. (currently amended) ~~The program according to claim 9, further comprising: A~~  
computer readable storage storing a program used to direct a computer to function as:

an information obtaining unit obtaining equipment information about the equipment to be received from a user;

a determination unit determining according to information obtained by said information obtaining unit whether or not treatable articles restriction standards of a receiver of the equipment are exceeded;

a location management unit managing a location and a type of the received equipment;  
and

a plant determination unit determining a plant which processes the equipment based on the location and the type of the equipment.

16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4622, further comprising:  
determining whether or not a the user is to bear a charge for recycle.
18. (currently amended) The method according to claim 17, further comprising:  
determining a method of paying a the charge when said charge determination step  
determines that a the user is to pay a the charge.
19. (original) The method according to claim 17, further comprising:  
calculating the charge according to information obtained by said information  
obtaining step.
20. (currently amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein  
when said charge determination step determines that a the user is to pay a the charge, a  
payment of the charge by the user is first confirmed, and then a receiving process is performed.
21. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4622, wherein  
said information obtaining step obtains information from a the user over a network.
22. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 16, further comprising:~~ A  
supporting method of supporting recycled use of equipment of a user, comprising:  
obtaining equipment information about the equipment to be received from the user;  
determining according to information obtained by said information obtaining step whether  
or not treatable articles restriction standards of a receiver of the equipment are exceeded;  
managing a location and a type of the received equipment; and  
determining a plant which processes the equipment based on the location and the type  
of the equipment.